

KERMIT NEWS
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ALBION NEW ERA
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Tobacco Auctions: Today and Yesterday



This year's tobacco auctions are bringing tobacco farmers the best prices on record. Farmers in some 21 states will receive over \$1 billion for their tobacco crops. At the auctions, the buyers (top right) face the auctioneer across stacks of cured tobacco. They bid by hand or head signals as the auctioneer continues his rapid-fire chant and a clerk records the sale of each lot of leaf. In the old days (bottom) buyers were often summoned to auction by a blast on a huge brass trumpet. Action at auctions then took a more leisurely pace. Both pictures are from the new book "Tobacco and Americans," by Robert K. Heimann, published by McGraw-Hill. The illustrated book traces the social and economic impact of the tobacco industry in this country.

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